



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF TEXAS**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711**

**JOHN L. HILL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**August 29, 1974**

**The Honorable Robert W. Thompson  
Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar of Texas  
P.O. BOX 12487  
Austin, Texas 78711**

**Open Records Decision No. 47**

**Re: Proceedings of a grievance  
committee of the State Bar.**

**Dear Mr. Thompson:**

**You have asked whether records and transcripts of testimony of meetings of a State Bar Grievance Committee are subject to public access by virtue of the Open Records Act, Article 6252-17a, § 7(a), V. T. C. S.**

**It has been urged by the State Bar that it is a part of the Judiciary and those excluded from the definition of "governmental body" and the coverage of the Act by its § 2(1)(G). However, we need not reach that question.**


**The Rules Governing the State Bar of Texas, adopted by the Supreme Court pursuant to the direction of the Legislature [Article 320a-1, § 4(a) V. T. C. S.] provide in Article 12, § 12 that: "The name of the accused member and the proceedings [of a District Grievance Committee] shall be kept private, so far as is consistent with development of the facts."**

**We consider this to make such proceedings "deemed confidential by law, either Constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision" within the exclusionary language of § 3(a)(1) of the Open Records Act, and thus not subject to mandatory public disclosure under the Act.**

**Very truly yours,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Hill".  
**JOHN L. HILL  
Attorney General of Texas**

APPROVED:



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C.J. CARL, Staff Legislative Assistant



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DAVID M. KENDALL, Chairman  
Opinion Committee

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